

Behavioral Risk Factor Survey

The Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (BRFS) is a random telephone survey, coordinated through the Centers for Disease Control, which collects information from adults on health behaviors and knowledge related to leading causes of death in each of the states. Approximately 200 interviews were obtained from Van Buren County. About half of all deaths occurring annually are now attributed to modifiable behavioral risks. In addition to determining what types of health risks are most prevalent in the population, the BRFS data will be very useful in determining what types of interventions are most needed for other health problems such as excess deaths from a particular chronic disease. A modified version of the standard BRFS was developed specifically for the “Community Diagnosis” process. In addition to the questions on the standard BRFS survey, a series of health issues are listed. The respondent is asked if the issue is a “Definite Problem”, “Somewhat of a Problem”, “Not a Problem”, or “Not Sure”. The list of the health issues with frequency of response as a “Definite Problem” is as follows:

		Top Ten Issues Highlighted
Tobacco Use	69%	
Cancer	57%	
High Blood Pressure	48%	
Heart Conditions	47%	
Alcohol Abuse	47%	
Drug Abuse	43%	
Arthritis	42%	
Obesity	31%	
Teen Pregnancy	30%	
Health Problems of the Lungs	28%	
Diabetes	27%	
Animal Control	24%	
Environmental Issues	23%	
Violence in the Home	11%	
Mental Health Problems	11%	
STD's	6%	
Other Violence	3%	
Suicide	1%	

Van Buren County's Access to Care Issues Percent Saying Definite Problem

Access to Hospitals	41%
Access to Physicians or Doctors	32%
Access to Dental Care	31%
Access to Pharmacies, Medicines	25%
Access to Prenatal Care	16%
Transportation to Health Care	10%
Access to Nursing Home Care	9%